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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 5340th meeting of the Security Council, held on 21 December 2005, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council commends the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the successful holding of the referendum on the draft Constitution. The large number of voters demonstrated a genuine aspiration for peace and national reconciliation.

"The Security Council pays tribute to the work of the Independent Electoral Commission, which was able, with an unprecedented and outstanding logistical support from MONUC (the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo) and with the assistance of the international community, to take up this challenge.

"The Security Council recalls its support for the holding of elections in the coming months, which have to take place before the end of the transitional period on 30 June 2006. It urges the Government of National Unity and Transition to live up to the expectations of the Congolese people and to do its utmost to ensure that the next polls are held in accordance with the timetable of the Independent Electoral Commission."

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